

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUCAR 04998 301653Z

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 673

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, RO

SUBJ: MFN AND ROMANIA

REF: BUCHAREST 4857, STATE 236846

1. IN LIGHT OF CURRENT INTER-AGENCY DISCUSSIONS TO DEVELOP POSITION
ON MFN FOR ROMANIA I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS ON
THE SITUATION AS WE SEE IT HERE.

2. WE UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF ENTERING INTO NEGOTIATIONS
ON A COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT AFTER THE TRADE BILL HAS BEEN ENACTED,
GIVEN THE UNCERTAINTIES IN THE BILL'S PROVISIONS ON MFN. EVEN IF
THE FINAL VERSION OF THE BILL DOES NOT REQUIRE A COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT
IN ORDER TO EXTEND MFN TREATMENT TO ROMANIA, WE AGREE IN THE VALUE
FOR US IN CONCLUDING SUCH AN AGREEMENT BY WAY OF ADDED ASSURANCES
ON SUCH ISSUES AS BUSINESS FACILITATION AND TRADE EXPANSION.

3. I AM HOWEVER CONCERNED, AS INDICATED IN EARLIER MESSAGES,
ABOUT THE QUESTION OF TIMING. IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM
WE HAVE, AND TO WHICH WE COULD ADD WITH THE SECRETARY'S VISIT, WE
SHOULD CONCLUDE AN AGREEMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER THE PASSAGE
OF THE TRADE BILL. (WE ARE ALREADY ALERTING ROMANIANS LIKE
PRESIDENTIAL COUNSELOR PUNGAN TO THE EXPECTED NEED FOR A COMMERCIAL
AGREEMENT). SINCE WE HAVE ALREADY CONCLUDED AN AGREEMENT WITH THE
SOVIET UNION, WE SHOULD AT LEAST BE ABLE TO BEGIN AN EXCHANGE
OF IDEAS WITH THE ROMANIANS PRIOR TO THE OPENING OF FORMAL NEGOTIA-

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PAGE 02 BUCAR 04998 301653Z

TIONS. AS A NEXT STEP, I WOULD PROPOSE THAT WE PRESENT TO THE

ROMANIANS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AS A WORKING PAPER AN APPROVED DRAFT OF A COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT DRAWN UP ALONG THE LINES OF OUR EARLIER 1973 DRAFT, BUT WITH THE ARTICLE ON MFN REPHRASED IN A MORE GENERAL TONE TO GIVE ENOUGH FLEXIBILITY TO ACCOUNT FOR THE VARIOUS FORMULAS THAT MAY COME OUT OF THE TRADE BILL'S FINAL VERSION. THIS WOULD GIVE US A GOOD HEAD START AS WELL AS POSSIBLE ADVANTAGE FOR THE EVENTUAL NEGOTIATIONS ON THE BASIS OF OUR OWN DRAFT, WHILE DEMONSTRATING CLEARLY OUR WIYR TO COMPLDBE THE MFN PROCESS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. I PLAN TO BRING UP THIS PROPOSAL WITH SONNENFELDT AND HARTMAN DURING THE SECRETARY'S VISIT THIS WEEK END.

BARNES

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